

violet to which it is in the remotest degree applicable if not to the well known plant under discussion, bearing in mind, of course, the fact that Hill's characterization of "floribus coeruleis" excludes from consideration *V. blanda*, with which Pursh, and *V. rotundifolia*, with which Gray confused it.—CHARLES LOUIS POLLARD, *Washington, D. C.*

THE TROPICAL LABORATORY COMMISSION.

To the Editors of the Botanical Gazette:—In accordance with your suggestion in the December number of the GAZETTE, I have undertaken the organization of a commission for the selection of a site for an international botanical laboratory in the American tropics. Such universal and substantial interest has been manifested in the matter that the belief is justified that the proposed laboratory is an assured fact and that the cooperation of a majority of the active botanical centers may be depended upon. A consideration of the nature and amount of the work to be done, as well as the conditions of traveling, leads to the conclusion that a commission of not less than three or more than five members would prove the most efficient. It will doubtless be possible to announce the entire personnel in your next issue.

As soon as possible after the organization is completed, a meeting of the American members to perfect plans for the season's work, will be held at some convenient point.

Previously to the organization of the commission, I had been in correspondence with the local botanists and representatives of the governments of the various countries to be visited, and am in receipt of many assurances that a grant of land and other concessions may be obtained without cost in almost any of the places in which the laboratory is likely to be located. This will allow the commission to select a site entirely on its merits as a center for botanical research, and its accessibility.

Any suggestions as to localities to be visited, sent to the undersigned, will be of assistance to the commission in planning the route to be covered.—D. T. MACDOUGAL, *The State University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minn.*